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And Evening Chronicle

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● W. C. Dowd, 1865-1927 ●

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MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 1943

A Haven For Drunks

John Carpenter's Docket Is Periodically Cleared of Drunk Drivers By Nolleprosse

It is but natural, citizens, that a progressive community make capital of its greatest assets. Because, for example, Charlotte is ideally situated for commerce in both Carolinas, and because climate, labor and power all pass muster, we speak of these items with pride. We lead, one knows from memory, in the number of telephone connections, in retail and wholesale business volume, in churches. On such a basis, the City appeals to new business firms, to new residents.

We fear one of our most noticeable characteristics has been overlooked by the civic-minded. There is yet another virtue, to be extolled by those who carry the Charlotte story to the nation at large. In drunken driving, the truth is, our community leads all the rest.

There are, perhaps, other centers where drunken drivers are to be found in greater numbers. Perhaps those of other cities turn up in jail drunker, too—in a finer state of inebriation. But in no city, we dare say, may one become a drunken driver with greater immunity than in Charlotte. A drunk behind the wheel of an automobile, providing he does not commit manslaughter before the police apprehend him, has far better than a 50-50 chance in the courts of Justice.

The readers who went through the story of the sorry state of affairs in Mecklenburg's Superior Criminal Court in this connection will know the record. Under the light touch of Solicitor John Carpenter (our candidate for the nolleprosse champion of North America), more than half of the 55 cases of drunken driving which have come into that court this year have been thrown out, nolleprossed. It is time, it seems to us, for a public protest—or at least for the semblance of an inquiry.

So far as we're concerned, the charge of driving drunk deserves as close attention from the courts as any other on the books. When drunk drivers in Mecklenburg are given freely to understand, month after month and year after year, that they may turn up in court as often as they like—and still go free—then some action should be taken. In the years in which *The News* has kept tab on the statistics of John Carpenter's dockets, no period of time tells a sadder story than this seven-months' tale of drunk driving.

The County, in this connection, might make a broad appeal to a desirable type of citizen, and greatly increase our population. A way to civic progress, it seems to us, would be in the broadcasting of the Superior Court records. Once we let all the citizens of the section know that drunk driving most often carries no penalty in Mecklenburg, the habitual drunk drivers would flock to our borders. There are many of those who take their recreation in this fashion. To a man, they would prefer to live out careers in a County where they would be safe from Justice, if not from the law. That place is here.

The Men At Quebec

Their Decisions Are Not Purely Military; They Must Also Plan For The Silence Of Peace

The men in solemn session at Quebec are making the decisions by which the world will turn, for months and years ahead. It seems safe to say that they are not making purely military decisions. Likely, all coming offensives have been sketched out in the rough for many, many months. It is likely that those drives soon to come have been actually launched since Spring, and the time has been spent in feverish preparation. In many a brief case, the secrets rest. Soon, the explosions, coming behind the long waves of bombers, will announce the last drives themselves.

At Quebec, we suspect, there are last-minute changes under consideration; those made necessary by the Sicilian campaign, by the condition of Italy, by the destruction of German factories. The situation will be weighed thoroughly, to be sure, but there will be much thinking of the time after the guns have ceased firing. Perhaps the plans are already made for dealing with Italy, with conquered Balkan lands. Perhaps, to follow the already-prescribed military governments, there are great corps of British-American workers, politicians, engineers, specialists. These will make the peace work, rebuilding the crippled nations.

It is this phase of the war which may be of greater importance at Quebec than military planning. For it was obvious, when President, Prime Minister and staffs met in the old city, that the Allies were almost ready for the striking of the great new and final blows. General Eisenhower had already flashed the ready signal. Armies in the Middle East have long been prepared, and gathering strength. The Southern exposures of Europe, as well as the industrial interior, have been pounded long and hard. The final decisions were ready for the conspirators.

And those final questions of necessity involved policy on the part of Britain and America. There were declarations of intent, positions to be taken in preparation for the coming of peace. Not only was the military fate of Italy decided; it was also decided how she should be governed, and where next the armies of liberation would strike. Armies of occupation, policies of government, means of feeding and warming the freed peoples, use of the newly-won freedom of the Mediterranean, all must have been considered.

And we hope that, above all else, there was agreement on the settlement with Germany. The United Nations need a policy, an announced policy. The talk that Russia will race in from the East, desperate to reach Berlin before the British-American armies, needs an answer. The Germans themselves need to be told the extent of their guilt, and the fate they can expect. At Quebec, the conferees must have concluded that Germany still presents a tough problem, but the emphasis must have been on victory. Now, for the first time, the conspirators can see clearly the end of the road of war.

Columbia's Man-Hunt

Jehovah's Witnesses Are Now Combatted By Ancient Methods of Persecution

If the group known as Jehovah's Witnesses became suddenly powerful, and accomplished the task of selling the whole world on the Righteous, Or Theocratic Government, we fancy we'd be among the last rank to enter that kingdom. But our appreciation for the religious tenets of that sect, and our conviction that its members should enjoy every American freedom are not one and the same. In Columbia, S. C., the city government has allowed itself to become entangled in confusion, in patriotic bigotry, in misguided fervor, in divisive philosophy.

If we understand the position of Columbia, the Witnesses are not wanted there; they were subjected to arrest for appearing on the streets with their literature; they were cowed by the demand for a $150,000 bond for the three-day use of a city auditorium. They were, in short, persecuted in Columbia. And that is, apparently, just the sort of treatment the Witnesses thrive on. We have no doubt the story of the Battle of Columbia will be told far and wide.

And, if we know our Witnesses, they will bear all treatment with placid faces, and without words of protest. They, persuaded that they are following the teachings of the Lord, will persist in their gentle attempts as missionaries to us all. The treatment they receive in Columbia will not discourage them. Not at all.

We believe the City of Columbia and all the patriotic organizations which protested against the meeting of Witnesses to have been in the wrong. The refusal of other Witnesses to salute the flag is doubtless in the mind of every man who protests in Columbia. But the war on the gentle sect becomes, instead of a suppression of un-American fanatics, a sort of man hunt. In most of its aspects it goes back to the early Christian days of the Roman Empire, when persecution plagued the faithful.

High Morale

The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON

OFFICIALS of the U. S. Air Forces operating over Europe are maintaining a high morale among the fliers in the face of daily losses of scores of their comrades.

Official communiques report only the number of planes lost on a given flight. They fail to mention that when ten Flying Fortresses go down, 100 men go down with them. This not only requires replacements, but also requires that the men who survive shall not brood too much over their friends. Officials calculate the chances of survival, just as the men do, and they regulate the flights to keep those chances favorable. No flier is kept on operations for more than 25 or 30 flights, depending on the percentage of losses.

Also, officials take pains to keep the mess halls filled. If 50 men fail to return from a raid, they make sure that there will not be 50 empty chairs at mess. A high official of the War Department, just back from a tour of the air fronts, reports that morale is good among the fliers. "If you sent them out against heavy opposition to bomb a truck by the roadside," he said, "they might not be so keen about it, but these boys know the importance of their targets, and their fighting spirit is high."

One officer, a squadron leader, suffered an injury to his foot, which was put in a plaster cast. But he hobbled out of the hospital, without being discharged, and made four flights over Europe with his crew, before attendants discovered his trick and took him back to bed.

Of Gas Books

Some Eastern motorists looking forward to more gasoline next month have a sad disappointment ahead. The OPA is planning to offset any increase in consumption. For while the value of A coupons will go up, the number of B and C coupons will go down, and the one move will offset the other.

Trimming of B and C books will be done by instructions from Washington to local boards directing that applications for these supplementary rations shall be scrutinized more carefully and the number of coupons reduced. Reports of OPA investigators reveal that some local boards are too liberal in granting supplementary rations. This is especially true in small communities where board members know applicants personally and do not like to police their driving too sharply. It is also true in oil producing states, where the necessity of sharp reduction has not yet been universally realized. Then, when you get your next B and C ration book, you may find that the board has used the scissors before passing the book on to you.

Ludwig's Warning

Emil Ludwig, famous German author and biographer, recently had a unique session with the Army's School for Military Government at Charlottesville, Va., as to what the Allies should do with Germany after the war. Ludwig gave a series of lectures on how to prevent another Hitler from arising and plunging the world into another war twenty years hence. Based upon years of studying Bismarck, Hindenburg and the Kaiser, the German historian urged that there be a strong army of occupation by all the United Nations for at least five years.

"The German people should know for the first time in 130 years," he said, "what a foreign authority looks like. Only thus can they be brought to understand that they have been defeated." Ludwig pointed out that German militarism always had come from Prussia, while Germany's culture had come from the South and West. Therefore he proposed splitting Germany up into two states: (1) Prussia, small and isolated; and (2) Bavaria, Saxony, and the smaller Catholic German states which are not militaristic and which would be joined with Austria. This would put the Catholics in one country and the Lutheran Prussians in another.

No Misguided Nazis

"Leave to the Germans all that other nations have," Ludwig recommended, "but take away their weapons, supervise their education, and give them political guardianship. If you do not, and if you speak of the 'poor misguided German people,' then twenty years from now your sons will be fighting another war against them.

"What I fear," continued Ludwig, "is that on the day after the death of Hitler, the Junkers, the generals will kowtow to you and say, 'We love Americans. Come, let us be brothers again.' I fear that some of you will say, 'Now let us make peace. They are good people, these generals.' But they are not. They are not one whit better than the Hitlers. They merely have better manners," Ludwig declared.

Note: Ludwig paid tribute privately to the excellent job the Army was doing at its School for Military Government. He said he had seldom met such an intelligent, progressive group of men, with such a grasp on the world's future problems.

King and Air Power

The Washington Post has been engaged in an argument with the Navy and Admiral Ernest King, commander-of-the-fleet, over whether he is really for airpower or still puts his faith in the big battleship.

The Post repeated from William Bradford Huie's book "The Fight for Air Power," a quotation from King that "Army aviation should end at the shore-line." Admiral King promptly replied that he never made such a statement. Maybe he didn't but . . . . After the battle of Midway, Fortune Magazine was preparing an article on airpower, and the proof sheets were sent to Admiral King for perusal. When they came back, he had written marginal notes in his own handwriting deprecating the achievements of Army airplanes at Midway. Where the manuscript said that Army planes bombed Jap ships, the doughty Admiral had penciled "Bombed AT Jap ships." Then followed the initials "E. J. K."

Note: It was largely censored at the time, but before Pearl Harbor, Army planes were not permitted to fly more than 100 miles on patrol duty over the water. For weeks the Army argued that long-range Army planes, faster and further-flying than the Navy's should keep a lookout for a surprise Jap attack. Maj. Gen. Bob Olds among others, even made a chart showing how a Jap carrier could sneak in at night after Navy planes had finished their rounds, without the Navy being able to detect it. But Admiral King's Navy remained adamant. Army planes, they said, must stick to the shore.

A Trifle Obscured

—By Dorman Smith

Our Foreign Policy

Against A Decision

By Samuel Grafton

NEW YORK

THE thing that troubles us about Europe is that we have a sinking feeling we must make up our minds at last. This we resist furiously. The debate over our foreign policy has not been wholly a contest between good and evil. In large part it has been a contest between policy and no-policy, a contest between those who want to leave every possible stone unturned, and those who think we ought to turn a few.

We are for almost any device that avoids a decision. I am quite sure that in our friendly approaches to the King of Italy, we had no desire to be reactionary, or pro-monarchist, or anti-republican, or to give a helping hand to the gray little brothers of Fascism. No, it seemed to us that in dealing with the King, we could deal with Italy without making up our minds about Italy. We could continue our hopeful program, which calls for progress without policy.

Mr. Hull has said that he want to keep politics out of the war. I am sure he believes it can be done. The difficulty is that every other nation and leader is playing politics, including the King of Italy. Our non-political approach to the King turned out to be a week's reprieve for the Germans in Italy, which was very political, indeed.

(But if we had been unalterably in favor of an Italian republic, there would have been no such week's reprieve for the Germans, permitting them to build a defense line at the Po without interruption by our bombers. Mr. Hull's non-political approach to the war turned out to be filled with both political and military significance. How can anyone say that politics can be kept out of the war, when, because of the particular attitude which we entertained toward the King of Italy, our bombers were held back, whereas if our attitude had been different, they would not have been held back?)

We have also felt that we could have a non-political attitude toward the new French Committee, delaying our recognition while assuring the committee we were doing so without prejudice, and with entire good will.

But the long delay depressed every exiled government in London. We feared that to recognize the French Committee might be a political act, a choosing of sides in regard to the new France. It has seemed to the exiled governments that not to recognize was also a political act; to withhold recognition is to assert the right to withhold recognition, the right to chose against; and that is just as much a political act as to choose for.

In point of fact, the delay itself has actually been a political act, asserting our right to delay, to keep a new government in an ambiguous state, halfway between the living and the dead. Finally, still pursuing the goal of progress without policy, we have set up a system of non-political military government for occupied territory, such as is functioning, and no doubt efficiently and fairly, in Sicily.

But it turns out that the exiled governments (especially the Czechoslovakian) consider it a highly political act for liberated territory to be ruled by however non-political a military government that is not their own government. The flight from politics is a flight from decisions, a flight from reality. There are no ice-boxes for government, in which sovereignty can be presented without being used. And however decent and fair we feel, deep in our own hearts, about our refusal to make decisions, those about whom we refuse to make decisions feel decided against.

Because we did not feel like deciding in favor of an Italian republic, we did not keep anything from happening; we got a Badoglio. If we lack policy, the policies of others will leap into the empty space thus provided. To bid the world sit still makes one think of the ancient king who addressed a somewhat similar message to the restless waves.

Side Glances

"Henry, that takes me back 25 years and 30 pounds ago!"

Only Answer

Stick Together

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON

THESE frequent meetings between Roosevelt and Churchill provide the headlines and newspaper photographs to drive home to the most reluctant mind one of the chief realities about our national security. They provide the most personal evidence of how completely British and American affairs are mixed up together now in the war. Will it be equally clear in our country that this interdependence needs to continue? Is not that a question that Congress and public discussion generally should answer? Why should not Congress express its judgment about that?

It will gain us nothing for Mr. Roosevelt to go on blissfully planning post-war co-operation with Britain if our Congress is hostile, as it was when Wilson proposed a close three-way arrangement with Britain and France a quarter of a century ago. It is time now to face these questions. We ought to know how America, how Congress, as distinct from the White House, feels. For we cannot go very far on a foreign policy that does not have the solid support of the American people. We can argue with people as to what the policy ought to be but unless they are convinced that it is wise and necessary to American interests, not much will come of it.

Circumstances that make us joint operators now in war, will give us joint interests in the future world. If we must combine forces now to carry through for our own best interests, would we not be stronger if we kept that community of interest in mind from here on? If Britain and ourselves need each other to win a war, we will need each other to keep it won. Break us apart and each is left the weaker.

World order will, in the end, have to rest on a base much broader than Anglo-American relations. Among others, it must include Russia to be fully successful. But we don't know what Russia is going to do. Any expectations concerning relations with Russia must be highly speculative. But we know where the British stand. Their self-interest needs America. The U.S-U.K. supply line is the jugular vein of Britain.

We have a traditional fear of being outsmarted by the British, and of thinking they will use us. It should be the other way around. They need us, and they are always fearful that we will run out as we did after after the last war. We have most of the gold in the world. We will finish the war with the largest shipping fleet in the world. Our air force will probably outsize the rest of the world put together.

We have the big stack of blue chips. If our politicians who are always afraid of the British putting something over would only recognize that we have the chips, then we could go ahead on a regular horse trading basis with the British to the advantage of both of us. There need be no sentiment in this. No Irishman need lay his harp aside in shame. It is a business proposition for both sides, if nothing more.

Platform Of The People

A Negro Plea

Editors, The News:

The Aug. 15 Charlotte Observer presented a graphic representation of the Charlotte and Mecklenburg Planning Committee, showing the committee set-up and organization plan. The chart, as drawn by S. H. Schropshire, of the office of the City engineer, shows the relationship of the Executive Board to the General Planning Committee, and the General Chairman as the direct supervisor of the New Industries Committee and the twelve sections.

Public Works Section, Public Buildings Section, Streets & Boulevards Section, Parks & Recreation Section, Urban Redevelopment Section, Public Health & Sanitation Section, City & County Relations Section, Educational & Cultural Section, Airports Section, Vocational & Educational Section, Transportation Section, Negro Section.

Full explanation was given of the organization and the objectives of all of these sections, excepting the Negro Section, to which no reference was made.

It appears that the Negroes are not to be integrated into the General Planning Committee. Maybe they are to be studied as one of the problems apart from all the other people of the city, for the Negro Section is on parity with all the other sections, according to the chart. The implications are that the Negroes are to be considered as if they were a non-personal as streets and boulevards, or one of the disposal plants. The chart shows that Negroes will not be given a chance to say what kind of streets and boulevards they should like to live on in the Post-War World. The presumption is that they are not interested in industries, public works, parks and recreation, educational facilities, airports, and transportation. That is not true. The Negroes are as interested in these things as are the Jews, Irish, Germans, Italians, English, French and American born whites. If they have failed to show interest, heretofore, it is because they have been denied the right to share in the planning of these essential projects.

The NAACP has already made a protest concerning a segregated Present and Post-War Planning Committee, and the lack of representation of Negroes on the Executive Committee. In the light of present day trends there is absolutely no place for a Negro Section in this Planning set-up. It is certainly out of keeping with the very spirit of such a noble project as this organization proposes. If Post-War Charlotte and Mecklenburg adopt such divisive plans as are evidenced in the organization of this General Committee, then we may expect growing conflicts, dissatisfaction and uncontrollable unrest.

We make this plea for full representation in order to preserve the very spirit, if not the full practice, of our Democracy, which we can only conserve by extending it to the least. At every turn of the road, at home and abroad Democracy is challenged as to its being worthy of surviving in the light of present practices and policies. Certainly, helpless minorities are not in position to force their wills on the majority. But if the majority does not protect the helpless minorities and see to it that they have every vested right of the Constitution and every gift of the Republic to which they belong, they prove themselves unworthy of ruling, and place themselves in imminent danger of losing their intrusted powers.

Here are our proposals:

1. Eliminate the Negro section after thought "Negro Section."

2. Select representative Negroes who will be useful to the General Committee because of their special preparation, their specialization activities, and their far reaching influence with the several Negro groups. (Say about 25). Then the representatives of all groups in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County may look at the same problem together.

3. Chose from this selected group one or more Negroes to serve on the Executive Board.

4. Place one or more Negroes on each of the sections.

—DR. BUFORD F. GORDON,
Chairman, Press & Publicity Committee, Charlotte Branch, National Association For The Advancement Of Colored People.